

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3 are amended and claim 10 is canceled. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank Examiner Prasad for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the September 7, 2005 personal interview. During the interview, it was agreed that incorporation of the features of claim 10 into claim 1 would overcome the rejection. The foregoing amendments make this change. The title is also amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (because the amendments simply incorporate the feature of a dependent claim into the independent claim from which it depended); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Title

The Office Action objects to the title of the invention as not being descriptive. The title is amended to obviate this objection.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 6 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,559,374 to Ohta et al. ("Ohta"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the interview, Ohta does not disclose the subject matter of claim 10, in which the terminal pieces are directly connected to the aluminum-based metal plate.

Claim 1 has been amended to include this feature and therefore claim 1 is patentably distinct from Ohta. Claims 6 and 9 are allowable at least for their dependence on claim 1.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Election Requirement.

Claim 1 is generic to the species covered by claims 2-5 and 7-8. Accordingly, upon allowance of claim 1, the withdrawn claims must be rejoined and examined. Additionally, independent claim 3 has been amended to include the "direct" feature added to claim 1.

IV. Correspondence Address

On March 3, 2005, Applicants submitted a Power of Attorney, giving Power of Attorney to Oliff & Berridge, PLC. The Patent Office failed to record the new change of address.

Subsequently, the Patent Office mailed a communication on April 8, 2005, asserting that the "Associate Power of Attorney" had not been entered because it was improper. In reply to that communication, Applicants submitted a response on May 6, 2005, pointing out that the March 3 filing was a Power of Attorney, not an Associate Power of Attorney.


For the convenience of the Patent Office, another signed copy of the March 3 Power of Attorney is submitted herewith. Applicants request the assistance of the Examiner to ensure that the change of correspondence address is properly entered in the Patent Office records. Applicants note that this same document has recently been accepted by the Patent Office in several other applications involving the same set of circumstances.

V. **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Registration No. 27,075

J. Adam Neff
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JAO:JAN/scg

Attachment:

Transmittal of Power of Attorney and General Power of Attorney

Date: September 8, 2005

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